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Diana T Fritz 02/06/2007 05:24:30 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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CONFIDENTIAL

SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

July 04, 2004

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 2209 - PRIORITY)
TAGS: PREL, MOPS
Captions: None
Subject: UAE AND IRAN FREE DETAINED CREWS
Ref: None

CONFIDENTIAL ABU DHABI 02209

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: POL
INFO: AMB USLO DAO RSO DCM P/M ECON

DISSEMINATION: POL
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: CDA:RAALBRIGHT
DRAFTED: POL:JFMAYBURY
CLEARED: DAO:MWEAVER

VZCZCADI897
PP RUEHC RUEHZM RUEHDE
DE RUEHAD #2209 1861309
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 041309Z JUL 04
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4980
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 4119

CONFIDENTIAL ABU DHABI 002209

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP AND NEA/NGA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/03/2014
TAGS: PREL MOPS IR TC
SUBJECT: UAE and Iran free detained crews

Ref: (A) Abu Dhabi 1987, (B) Abu Dhabi 1881

Classified by Richard A. Albright, Charge d'Affaires,
a.i., reasons 1. 5 (B) and (D).

11. (U) The UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement on July 1 announcing that the UAEG had released the Iranian crew and their fishing boat that had been seized on June 2 (see ref B). UAE authorities determined that the crew had entered UAE territorial waters unintentionally, according to the official statement. Meanwhile, a June 30 IRNA report cites Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi as saying that Iran had freed Emirati crews and their fishing boats seized June 13 in Iranian waters. While neither announcement specified exact dates of release, Asefi said that Iran acted following a

similar move by the UAE to release Iranian sailors held on the same charges. Iranian officials "have taken Iran's good relations with the UAE into consideration and have released all the Emirati sailors and their boats," he said.

¶2. (U) The UAEG statement published in the Arabic daily Al-Ittihad said, "The UAE gives importance to the good relations with its neighbor, the Islamic Republic of Iran. Because of that, the UAE initiated the release of all arrested Iranian crew members and boats after preliminary investigations with the ship's captain and crew, which determined that the crew had entered UAE territorial waters unintentionally."

¶3. (C) Comment: As we noted in ref A, such boat seizures are commonplace at this time of year and we have no evidence that these actions are politically motivated.

ALBRIGHT